



"Growing Montana"

Montana Agricultural Business Association

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SENATE AGRICULTURE

EXHIBIT NO. # 3

DATE 1-8-09

BILL NO. SB 55

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & IRRIGATION

January 8, 2009 Hearing on Senate Bill 55

Testimony of Montana Agricultural Business Association

Mr. Vice Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. For the record my name is Pam Langley. I am the executive director of the Montana Agricultural Business Association.

We support Senate Bill 55 sponsored by Senate Agriculture Chairman Don Steinbeisser at the request of the Montana Department of Agriculture.

MABA has met with Montana Agriculture Department director Ron de Yong and his staff to review this legislation and we support the Montana Department of Agriculture efforts to update the Fertilizer Act.

In the twenty years I've worked for MABA, this is one of a very few times the Fertilizer Act has been opened up for changes. I can recall only two bills, but there may have been more. Both that I recall involved inappropriate use of fertilizer—one helped to stem use of anhydrous ammonia in meth production by providing tank locks and the other made it a crime to use anhydrous ammonia to adulterate grain to try to fool protein machines.

In 1997, we met with the Montana Department of Agriculture and reviewed the law and rules. We found a couple of changes the department wanted but we agreed with the department then that these didn't warrant a legislative bill taking up legislators' time and energy. Those two changes are included in this legislation on pages 12 and 13 in 80-10-208 and 80-10-209. They change "shalls" to "mays". We did not at that time compare our Montana Fertilizer Act with changes American Association of Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO) had made in its effort to fine tune uniform laws in the states. More changes yet have been made in the last ten plus years.

We agree with the department that it is time this session to bring Montana's Fertilizer Act up to date with the American Association of Plant Food Control Officials (AAPFCO.) These are important to assure for Montana agricultural producers a level playing field with growers in other states and within Montana from locality to locality.

We ask you to support the Senate Bill 55. Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify before your committee and I am welcome to questions. If I can't answer them today, I will provide the information before you take executive action on this bill.

SENATE AGRICULTURE

EXHIBIT NO. # 3

DATE 08-08-09

BILL NO. SB 55